



Photos courtesy 5th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division

The Aftermath of Terrorism

(Above) Iraqis dig through the rubble of extensive damage to a courtyard of the St. George Church in south central Baghdad, following a terrorist car bomb attack Nov. 8. Amazingly, no one was hurt in this blast, in which explosive ordnance experts estimated 500 to 600 pounds of explosives were used. The front of the church received minor damage from the attack.

(Below) Less than one half mile from the site of another car bomb attack, the St. Matthew Church in south central Baghdad was hit roughly four minutes later by an insurgent vehicle-borne improvised explosive device Nov. 8. A car bomb exploded in a courtyard near the front of the church. The blast caused no serious structural damage to the church, but several single-story brick huts in the immediate area collapsed from the blast's concussion.



Saluting Our Veterans: Past and Present

By Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli and
Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola
Commanding General, 1st Cav. Div.

Veterans Day has a special meaning for Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and Coast Guardsmen -- particularly those who are deployed in foreign lands.

Command Sgt. Maj. Neil Ciotola and I salute you, the veterans of the 1st Cavalry Division and Task Force Baghdad. Veterans have given blood and toil in defense of our nation and its ideals from the far reaches of the Pacific Rim to the broiling hot sun of the streets of Baghdad.

In war and in peace, veterans have made possible the survival of the oldest and most thriving democracy the world has ever known.

President Woodrow Wilson best defined Veterans Day, which began as Armistice Day, as a remembrance of those fallen in World War I:

"To us in America, the reflections of Armistice Day will be filled with solemn pride in the heroism of those who died in the country's service and with gratitude for the victory, both because of the thing from which it has freed us and because of the opportunity it has given America to show her sympathy with peace and justice in the councils of the nation."

Many years later, President Dwight D. Eisenhower, signed a bill renaming the holiday Veterans Day, thus commemorating the service of troops from all of America's wars.

You, the great Soldiers of Task Force Baghdad, have joined those who have selflessly assumed the duty of defending our nation against an enemy intent on depriving the right of people to breathe free. In the face of tremendous challenges you are providing the Iraqi people with the opportunity that all people deserve - freedom, justice, and the hope for a better future for their children.

Your work here will be remembered - just as we remember the work of our fellow veterans on this day all across our country as well as on distant shores.

Stand proud fellow veterans and remember those who walked in our boots before us.

Cav. Soldiers [At] Home on the Range

By Sgt. Dan Purcell
122nd MPAD

CAMP TAJI, Baghdad -- Adjusting for elevation, compensating for an unpredictable breeze, they swag to the left and then to the right: Steady now, they fire, impact observed, adjust, fire again, walking the rounds in. It's a hit.

Soldiers of the 615th Aviation Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team led the way to Butler Range in a convoy live fire exercise that brought many noncommissioned officers (NCO) together for the first time.

"This was the first time for a lot of the NCOs to work together, and given the nature of the training, we basically had to teach ourselves," Sgt. 1st Class Emilio Perales, convoy and range NCO in charge, Bravo Company, 615th ASB noted. "But, we were able to build a very tight and cohesive unit quickly and things just got better and better."

"The purpose of the exercise was two-fold," Capt. Joseph Caldwell, convoy and range officer-in-charge, Headquarters Support Company, 615th ASB explained. "First, we wanted to provide our Soldiers real-world air and ground convoy procedures, and secondly, to provide crew-served weapons marksmanship training."



By Sgt. Dan Purcell, 122nd MPAD

A Soldier fires an MK19-3 (automatic 40-millimeter crew-served grenade launcher) from a stationary position under the guidance of an instructor at Butler Range.

Putting it all together required the help of experienced NCOs from throughout the brigade, who were tasked with instructing Soldiers in crew-served weapons marksmanship for six days of live fire training.

During the training phase, the NCOs provided battle-focused instruction on a variety of crew served weapons to include the 50-caliber machine gun, M-240B machine gun, squad assault weapon (SAW), MK 19-3 (automatic 40-millimeter grenade launcher) and even the M-203 (rifle mounted) grenade launcher. Soldiers were taught how to operate the weaponry safely and effectively.

"The Soldiers are not here

to qualify, they are here to familiarize themselves with the different systems so they can fill in when needed," said Perales.

"A Soldier must be confident with his weapon, and [not] afraid to engage the enemy with it," said Caldwell.

Once on Butler Range, the Soldiers received a safety briefing, drew ammunition and spent the remainder of the morning getting familiarized with the various weapon systems from stationery positions under the expert guidance of their instructors. The afternoon was spent firing at rusted tanks and at targets within a mock village from a moving convoy.

"The training was pretty good stuff. It's one of the best

ranges I've been to," said Sgt. Sean Bailey, Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 227th Aviation Regiment, at the end of a full day of training. "Compared to Udari (Kuwait) and some of the ranges I've been to in the states, this was one of the best organized ranges I've seen."

By the end of the sixth day, a total of 360 Soldiers had been processed through the range without accident or injury.

"If we (NCOs) didn't know each other before we started this exercise, we know each other now," Perales said, summing up the experience. "It couldn't have gone better, everyone pitched in and we were able to meet the commander's intent to get everyone trained."

Useful Iraqi Words/Phrases

That's all, thanks.

haaza kull maa ureed, shukran.

Thursday

High: 84
Low: 66



Friday

High: 81
Low: 62



Saturday

High: 82
Low: 62



Weather information provided by 1CD Staff Weather Office (SWO)

Commanding General: Maj. Gen. Peter Chiarelli

Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. James Hutton

122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment Cmdr.: Maj. John Fuhrman

Public Affairs Supervisor: Master Sgt. Dave Larsen

1st Sgt. 122nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment: 1st Sgt. William Kuhns

Editor: Spc. Marie Whitney

Staff Writers: Sgt. 1st Class Tony Sailer, Staff Sgt. Susan German, Staff Sgt. Merrion LaSonde, Sgt. Dan Purcell, Sgt. Christina Rockhill, Cpl.

Benjamin Cossel, Cpl. Bill Putnam, Spc. Jan Critchfield, Spc. Andy Miller, Spc. Erik LeDrew, Spc. Al Barrus, Pfc. Brian Schroeder, Pfc. Matthew McLaughlin.

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News Notes

Blowing Bubbles Pays Off Big Time

CONWAY, Ark. (AP) -- Conway's big bubble blower has blown away the British. Bubble-blowing queen Kelsey Lea went to London and brought home another biggest-bubble crown. In July, 12-year-old Kelsey won a \$10,000 savings bond as the winner of the Dubble Bubble National Bubble Blowing Contest in New York. The 12-year-old from Conway said that she worked for about a year to be one of six finalists for the contest. In London, Kelsey blew a 16-inch bubble besting Great Britain's bubble-blowing champion 11-year-old Amber Johnson. The pair faced off on the British Broadcasting Corporation's Saturday morning kids' television show.

Oops, I Have the Wrong Number

JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (AP) -- A newspaper mistakenly published the telephone number of a sex talk service on the front page on its Election Day issue. The number was supposed to be for a national voter hot line. "We didn't follow our policy of calling the number before publishing it," said Pat Yack, editor of The Florida Times-Union. Yack said as soon as the mistake was learned, a correction was published on the newspaper's Web site and in the paper.

'Halo 2' Takes U.S. By Storm

NEW YORK (CBS) -- If you were a non-gamer, someone who had never heard of "Halo", Bungie Studios, Xbox or a guy named the Master Chief, you would have probably been curious about the hundreds of people coiled around the block in front of a Toys R Us in chilly Times Square.

We were there, all screaming and shouting, like our counterparts across the country, for the "Midnight Madness" release of "Halo 2". More than 6,500 stores across the country were holding a similar event.

As fans, we had waited three years, ever since we'd put our controllers down and watched the ending credits of the first "Halo," for the continuation of the series.

"It's the biggest and most anticipated game of all time," said Mark Clark of Microsoft. He wasn't kidding. It's getting ready to be shipped to 27 countries in eight different languages and the game sold over 1.5 million units in pre-order. At \$50 a unit, the game made \$75 million before it was even released.

These kinds of numbers would make any Hollywood studio mogul green with envy. (The animated hit movie "The Incredibles" grossed \$70.7 million in its first weekend.)

Five million copies of the original "Halo" were sold, and game has invaded many aspects of pop culture. Celebrities like Justin Timberlake, Michelle Rodriguez, Julia Roberts and the boys of Linkin Park are fans.

"Halo 2" puts the player in the role of a

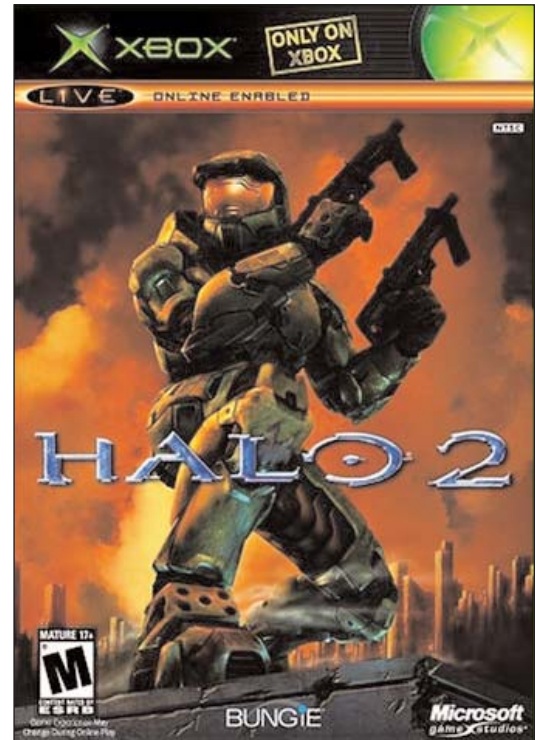


Photo Courtesy of www.amazon.com

genetically enhanced super soldier named Master Chief. He is the only thing standing between an evil force of aliens called the Covenant and the destruction of mankind.

Warrior Course Trains Veterans Army Way

FORT KNOX, Ky. (Army News Service) -- All Tyrone Givens wanted was a chance to restart a career in the military.

He got that chance Nov. 4 as he and 101 other former military men and women graduated from the second class of the Warrior Transition Course, which allows former Airmen, Sailors and Marines to bring their valued skills into the Army.

"I chose to participate in the course and become a second-time volunteer because my country is at war," said the native of Cincinnati, Ohio. "I couldn't stand idly by and watch others share the burden."

While not exactly basic training, the course did offer up challenges aplenty to the Soldiers-in-training, said Pfc. Richard Batts, a classmate of Givens.

For 28 days, the new



By Air Force Staff Sgt. Derrick C. Goode

Prior U.S. Air Force and Navy service members participate in field training during the Warrior Transition Course at Fort Knox, Ky., Oct. 26.

Soldiers learned everything essential in the Army, from standing at parade rest when talking to a drill instructor to learning the different rank

structure. They also spent long periods of time in the field firing heavy machine guns, learning urban warfare tactics, and pulling convoy and checkpoint security details, Givens said.

The program is lauded by Army commanders because it gives them the opportunity to develop leaders who are already seasoned as veterans in their respective former branches of service, said Capt. Tom Oakley, commander of Company C, 1st Battalion, 46th Infantry Division, one of the units conducting the training.

"The folks we get here are just what the Army is looking for because they are second-time volunteers, and that says a lot about them," Oakley said. "These individuals are motivated, brave and very patriotic. They will serve the Army well by meshing right in with our younger troops."

Pacers Squeak Past T-Wolves for Win

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) -- It sure looks as if it's going to take more than a bunch of injuries and a suspended star to stop the Indiana Pacers.

Jermaine O'Neal had 22 points and eight rebounds to help the banged-up, unbeaten Pacers hold off the Minnesota Timberwolves 102-101 on Tuesday night - with Ron Artest benched for an unspecified reason.

"This team is so far from being a one- or two-man show," O'Neal said. "Pretty soon someone's going to have to say something about us."

Artest, an All-Star and the NBA's reigning Defensive Player of the Year, did something Monday that "compromised the integrity of the team." That's according to coach Rick Carlisle, who called it a "private team matter." Artest won't play Wednesday, either.

It's not as if he wasn't missed, especially down the stretch as Latrell Sprewell (21 points) and Wally Szczerbiak (20 points) led Minnesota's comeback. But the Pacers (4-0), with several reserves seeing extensive playing time, also proved they've got plenty of capable bodies on the roster.

"We showed a lot of poise and a lot of team camaraderie," said Stephen Jackson, who had 21 points.

Indiana owned a 47-30 rebounding advantage and went 21-for-23 at the free-throw line. Minnesota, which got 22 points, 10 rebounds, and eight assists from Garnett, made 20 of 28 foul shots. All the misses were by Garnett, who went 6-for-14.



AP

Indiana Pacers guard Jamaal Tinsley (11) goes up against Minnesota Timberwolves forward Kevin Garnett for a shot attempt during the fourth quarter in Minneapolis, Tuesday. The Pacers beat the Timberwolves 102-101.

"We got better in the fourth quarter, but that's a game we shouldn't have lost," Szczerbiak said.

Clemens Awarded Seventh Cy Young

NEW YORK (AP) -- Clearly, sticking around the major leagues was a great career move for Roger Clemens.

As dominant as ever after reversing his decision to retire, the 42-year-old Rocket easily won his record seventh Cy Young Award on Tuesday - first in the National League - after taking the Houston Astros within one win of the World Series.

He received 23 of 32 first-place votes and 140 points in balloting by the Baseball Writers' Association of America, becoming the oldest pitcher to win a Cy Young. Gaylord Perry was 40 when he won in 1978.



AP

Houston Astros starting pitcher Roger Clemens easily won his record seventh Cy Young Award Tuesday at the age of 42.

Will Clemens pitch in 2005 or finally call it quits?

"I'll just have to wait and see," he said. "I kind of have a feeling on what I need to do and what the

future holds."

Clemens retired after pitching for the New York Yankees in the 2003 World Series, then changed his mind in January and signed with his hometown Astros. He won his first nine decisions and finished 18-4 with a 2.98 ERA and 218 strikeouts.

Clemens is expected to file for free agency by Thursday's deadline. He didn't give a direct answer when asked whether Houston would be the only team he would consider pitching for.

"I would be surprised if he would play for someone other than the Astros," his agent, Randy Hendricks, said.

In Brief

Chesney Takes Top CMA Awards

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) -- Kenny Chesney waited 12



years to win a Country Music Association award - but had less than two minutes to give his

acceptance speech. Chesney won album of the year honors Tuesday and, at the end of the night, he received the entertainer of the year award. Shortly into his speech, music signaled his time was up during the live broadcast. Chesney protested, but the cameras cut to hosts Brooks & Dunn. Chesney was gracious about it afterward.

Actress Minnelli Countersues Aide

NEW YORK (AP) -- Oscar-winning singer-actress Liza Minnelli filed a \$250,000 counterclaim Tuesday against a former driver and bodyguard in response to his reported allegations that she frequently beat him. The 58-year-old Minnelli is asking for a declaratory judgement and an injunction and relief of "no less than \$250,000." The New York Post reported last month that Soumayah had sued Minnelli, alleging she had physically attacked him during alcohol-fueled tirades. The Post said his lawsuit seeks "money damages arising from personal injuries."